



2005 *Annual Report*

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LETTER FROM MAYOR

Dear Friends:

Seattle's parks and recreation facilities play a vital role in maintaining and improving the quality of life in the city. We provide fun and educational activities for kids when they're not in school, offer engaging programs for seniors and people with disabilities, protect the urban forest, and we are investing in new community centers and neighborhood parks.

In 2005, we made excellent progress in completing projects funded under the 1999 Community Center Levy. We finished the new Yesler Community Center and the renovated Southwest Community Center, as well as more than a dozen park improvement projects and 13 park acquisitions funded by the 2000 Pro Parks Levy. We opened the magnificently designed Cal Anderson Park on Capitol Hill. In Discovery Park, we added precious land and assets as we reached an agreement with the Navy to buy the 23-acre Capehart housing area in the heart of the park, and acquired the historic West Point Lighthouse from the federal government. We launched the Center City Parks Initiative to revitalize parks in the downtown core, and we began major projects that will help transform Seattle's waterfront: a renovation of the Seattle Aquarium at Pier 59 and the start of construction of the Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park.

Also in 2005, the City renewed its commitment to middle school-age students through programs funded by the Family and Education Levy, creating engaging after-school programs for youth that also align with academic standards.

My thanks and congratulations to City staff, community partners, and park neighbors who worked together to preserve and enhance our precious park and recreation system.

Sincerely,
Greg Nickels, *Mayor of Seattle*



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Recreation



It's difficult to capture the breadth and variety of our recreation programs and events. Here is a glimpse at the recreation opportunities we provide youth, teens, adults, seniors, and persons with disabilities. In 2005, we recorded 2.5 million visits to our 25 community centers. Nearly 200,000 people visited our nine summer beaches. We served 9,533 youth at 19 summer day camp sites. Attendance at our before- and after-school programs averaged 1,460 youth per month. Our basketball program served 3,245 kids in our citywide leagues. We provided 26,157 hours of direct service to senior adults, including "food and fitness" programs that offered nutritious ethnic meals and opportunities to

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LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Citizens:

This report offers figures and facts that show the substantial progress we made in 2005 to fulfill our mission to take care of the environment and provide Seattle citizens with the best possible parks and recreation system.

But the numbers tell only part of the story. In Seattle's South Park neighborhood, for example, Seattle Parks and Recreation staff and programs helped restore dignity and positive activity to a neighborhood reeling from a spate of gun violence that had taken the life of two teenagers. In May 2005, Mayor Nickels launched the South Park Initiative to make key improvements to the neighborhood. In particular, South Park Community Center staff redoubled their efforts to recruit and engage teens and their families in a wide variety of programs, classes, and special events.

In the "build it and they will come" category is the newly renovated Southwest Community Center in West Seattle. Since the re-opening of the center with its new gym and teen center, participation in youth programs, from pre-schoolers to teens, is at an all-time high. At less than half an acre in size, the revamped Plymouth Pillars Park is having a big impact on the Pike-Pine neighborhood. Located on Boren Ave. between Pike and Pine streets, the park has become a community gathering place with its renovated plaza and a new off-leash area, our 11th, for dogs (and their owners).

Taking our cue from the Mayor's Race and Social Justice Initiative, we worked hard in 2005 to reach out to minority and women contractors at a citywide vendor fair, and significantly expand culturally diverse programming. We implemented one example at our summer day camps, where we involved children of color in environmental education by drawing on their own cultural histories.

As this annual report shows, the variety and quantity of our year-end accomplishments are truly impressive, but even more important are the positive impacts we have on people of all ages from Seattle's wide variety of cultures and communities.

Ken Bounds

Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

THE YEAR IN REVIEW (Continued)

(Cal Anderson Park) is a venue for urban strolls, out in the open and devoid of commerce: our first great park of the 21st century.

— Architecture critic
Jerry Garcia

learn, recreate, exercise and make social connections at targeted community centers. Our summer camps for disabled persons served 220 youth campers in four overnight camps and 260 campers in four day camps. Also in 2005, we scheduled more than 142,000 hours of practice and game time on our playfields, which are used for soccer, baseball, flag football, lacrosse and other sports.

Pro Parks Levy

Seattle voters approved the \$198.2 million Pro Parks Levy in November 2000. The Levy is funding acquisition and development projects, youth and senior programs, improved maintenance, and Woodland Park Zoo enhancements.

2005 Accomplishments

Acquisitions: We acquired 13 properties, totaling 4.9 acres, in the Delridge, Alki, Magnolia, and Southeast Seattle neighborhoods.

Development: In 2005, we completed 14 park improvement projects. Of the 95 named projects in the Levy, 49 were completed by the end of 2005. A few highlights:



- ◆ In Capitol Hill, we partnered with Seattle Public Utilities to put a lid on the water reservoir, and made major upgrades to Cal Anderson Park.
- ◆ In South Lake Union, with neighbors PEMCO Insurance, Vulcan Inc. and Harbor Properties, we completed a major renovation of Cascade Playground.
- ◆ In Eastlake, we teamed up with the Washington State Department of Transportation to open up 7.5 acres of previously off-limits property into I-5 Colonnade Park, with an off-leash area, a mountain bike course and open space.

Environmental Stewardship, Enhanced Maintenance:

In 2005, we created a beach fire management plan that resulted in a 60% reduction of illegal fires and 80% reduction in illegal fuels burned, led a City government effort to reduce paper use among staff, and provided environmental education programs through our four environmental learning centers and other programs for 21,278 participants. With Levy support, we improved athletic fields and park landscapes, completed 598 tree maintenance projects, and kept up with the high demand for clean restrooms, pools and community centers.

Recreation: In 2005, we provided 12,820 lessons to Seattle third and fourth graders through the Levy-funded Learn to Swim program, and added nearly 2,000 hours of operation at 11 popular summer wading pools. We continued to expand programs and activities for teens and senior adults.

Zoo: The Levy supported a number of programs, projects and staff positions at the Woodland Park Zoo in 2005, including the School to Zoo program, serving 6,000 students from low-income families. The Levy also funded maintenance projects such as improvements to animal exhibits.

1999 Community Center Levy Program

2005 Accomplishments: In 2005, we made excellent progress on a number of projects, completing two centers and starting construction on one other.

Community Center Project Updates

(in order of completion)

Magnuson (\$3.1 million): completed Jan. 2004.

High Point (\$3.7 million): completed March 2004.

Jefferson (\$2.5 million): completed Sept. 2004.

International District/Chinatown (\$2.1 million): completed Sept. 2004.

Yesler (\$6.6 million): completed Feb. 2005.

Southwest (\$2.3 million): completed May 2005.

Northgate (\$8.2 million): construction started on community center/library/park in March 2005; expected completion is summer 2006.

Van Asselt (\$3.9 million): finished design in 2005; expected completion is year-end 2006.

Belltown (\$1.9 million): received state funding enabling project, in partnership with the Low-Income Housing Institute, to move forward.

Seattle Aquarium

2005 Accomplishments: Despite the impact of major construction, the Aquarium set an all-time annual attendance record with a total of 722,775 visitors in 2005. Also:

- ◆ 2005 saw the birth of two sea otters, one in March to Aniak and the second one in December to Lootas.

- ◆ With support from the nonprofit Seattle Aquarium Society (SEAS), the Aquarium completed an

Education Strategy Plan, creating a new focus on conservation and a new mission statement: *Inspiring conservation of our marine environment.*



"As the density of development continues to encroach on our private spaces, it's a good feeling to know that some public open space has been preserved for the future."

— Keith Rickards,
6th Ave. NW
Pocket Park Association

Parks Partners

We couldn't do what we do without many community and business partners. Here are a few of the key ones.

- ◆ **Associated Recreation Council:** Parks' partnership with the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) and its 37 member advisory councils has proved to be remarkably resilient over the past 30 years. In 2005, ARC brought in \$10 million in revenue, an

Our Mission

Seattle Parks and Recreation will work with all citizens to be good stewards of our environment, and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community.

increase of 4 percent over the previous year, and employed more than 1,200 program instructors. In particular, ARC also funded six summer playground programs that had been cut in the previous budget.

- ◆ **Board of Park Commissioners:** Under the leadership of chair Kate Pflaumer, the seven members of the Board advise the Superintendent, Mayor, and City Council on key parks policies and issues. In 2005, these included the Loyal Heights, Montlake, and Magnolia Elementary Playfield projects; skate park proposals; and off-leash areas.
- ◆ **Seattle Parks Foundation:** In 2005, the Foundation secured the largest funding commitment ever made to a public Seattle park: \$10 million from City Investors Inc., for South Lake Union Park. The Foundation continued to work with Parks

and local communities to complete park improvement projects at Lake People Park, Homer Harris Park, and Benefit Park.

- ◆ **Starbucks:** Since 2000, the Starbucks Coffee Company has supported parks through its Neighborhood Parks Program. In 2005, projects in six neighborhood parks were the fortunate recipients of \$15,000 grants to help complete their projects. In addition, Starbucks awarded \$135,000 for the new play area at Van Asselt Community Center.
- ◆ **Volunteers:** Volunteers support our programs and operations in many ways. Volunteers serve on advisory councils, serve as coaches, contribute to community center events, participate in "Friends of" park groups that work hard to restore and improve parks. In 2005, volunteer hours totaled 306,000.

BUDGET

2005 Budgeted Expenditures and Revenues
by Budget Control Levels (000's)

EXPENDITURES

Acquisition and Property Management	1,437	1.4%
Citywide Programs and Scheduling	9,976	9.5%
Community Centers	11,232	10.6%
Facility and Structure Maintenance	10,880	10.3%
Finance and Administration	6,732	6.4%
Golf	7,665	7.3%
Judgment and Claims	1,030	1.0%
Park Cleaning, Landscaping, and Restoration	26,454	25.1%
Planning, Engineering and Development	6,103	5.8%
Policy Direction and Leadership	861	0.8%
Seattle Aquarium	6,285	6.0%
Seattle Conservation Corps	4,053	3.8%
Swimming, Boating, and Aquatics	6,802	6.4%
Woodland Park Zoo	6,044	5.7%
	105,554	100.0%

REVENUES

General Fund Allocations	36,811	34.9%
Dedicated Tax Proceeds	29,900	28.3%
Fees, Charges, and Concession Revenues	24,635	23.3%
Levy and Intergovernmental Sources	14,208	13.5%
	105,554	100.0%

Credits

This report was prepared by David Takami, editor, and Margarite Hargrave, graphic designer. For more information, please contact David Takami, Seattle Parks and Recreation, 206-684-8020 or david.takami@seattle.gov or visit our web site at www.seattle.gov/parks

